

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

Before the next week's issue of December 6th, we hope to welcome the Planting Expert back to headquarters, full of practical and instructive experience gleaned during his extended tour. His stay will be of short duration as he will soon after his return be leaving for Coimbatore to attend the Agricultural Conference.

So varied and contradictory are the views expressed relative to quality of wild Para and Plantation Rubber, that we publish the opinions of two well-known users of both. The goal is worth winning and the prize obtainable by those who set their mind on the standardization and uniformity of this produce. The taste of the manufacturer must be studied and met. With him lies the award.

An instructive and convincing letter appears from Mr. Martin in reply to N. I. K. which should demolish for ever anything in the shape of direct recruiting. We consider that this letter throws an illuminating light on methods of recruiting. Mr. Martin could, we are sure, if he would only allow himself to do so, add much to our knowledge of the same, from his vast experience. His knowledge of the coolie and the recruiter, like Sam Weller's is "extensive and peculiar."

Though the letter on Nitrate of Lime savours of a gratuitous advertisement we publish it for the benefit of those who use Nitrate of Lime, and who might wish to stock it without loss.

A warning note is struck by Mr. Marden in his letter on Antestia Cruciana. One never knows, but the hint thrown out may prove valuable.

We trust that "One Interested" will find satisfaction, if not consolation, in Mr. Groye's reply.

It will be noted that the Government of Madras intend to establish a Pathological Institute of their own and do not propose to contribute to the Fund or address the Government of India, in accordance with the Resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting and forwarded to them.

The Book of Proceedings for 1913 has come to hand from the Printers and been posted to those who have already ordered it. The price has been reduced in the hope that every member of every District Association will take a copy, and thus reduce the cost and number of the unpurchased volumes to the Association.

RUBBER.

Wild vs. Plantation.

TWO EXPERT AND FLATLY CONTRADICTORY VIEWS.

By a curious coincidence, the humour of which it requires a dull brain not to see, we have this week Mr. Arthur du Cros, of the Dunlop Company, giving reasons at the Aboyne Clyde meeting why manufacturers cannot use plantation rubber freely, and Mr. Dundas-Mouat, in a letter to the Press, stating emphatically that they do use plantation, and even prefer it. Mr. du Cros is an authority on the manufacturing side, and his views are practically the same as those of Mr. R. T. Byrne, of the Leyland and Birmingham Co. We think he overstates his case, because we know tyre makers who prefer plantation rubber. Mr. Dundas-Mouat as an authority on plantation produce may perhaps have gone some distance in the other direction. In any case here are their respective views.

Mr. du Cros says:—"In my view there is one consideration in particular which has not been sufficiently recognised in considering the position of the plantation industry, and that is the complete failure of rubber planters to compete with wild Para rubber. Plantation rubber is something over £200 a ton cheaper than wild Para to-day. Some people have accounted for that by accusing manufacturers of being either ignorant or indifferent to the advantage of plantation rubber. Manufacturers are ordinary human beings, possessed as a rule with the average amount of intelligence, and they do not pay £200 a ton more for their raw material merely as a matter of amusement or because they are ignorant of the business in which they have been engaged for many more years than those who criticise them, or because they are either blind or indifferent to their own interests. There must be some other reason, and the reason, shortly stated, is this: that manufacturers cannot depend upon plantation rubber to give the same results as wild Para rubber. With manufacturers quality is the first consideration, and price is a secondary matter. Why is plantation rubber not so dependable as wild Para rubber? In my opinion the latex as it is taken from trees on a plantation, provided the trees are properly matured, is as good as the latex obtainable from wild Para trees. There are two reasons, in my view, why plantation rubber as finally offered on the market is not so good as wild Para.

First, there is no uniformity observed in its preparation, and there can therefore be no uniformity in the manufacturing results. The manufacture of rubber is a very intricate process. Manufacturers find that plantation rubber which is apparently of good quality passes through their works, is manufactured into finished goods, and subsequently fails in use. These finished goods are sold on the market and involve them in loss and discredit. I think this uncertainty in the results given by plantation rubber is due to the way in which it is originally prepared. It is not cured or treated in the same way as wild Para rubber, and, above all, it is not uniformly treated by the different estates.

"That is one of the causes of the failure of plantation rubber to compete with wild Para. There is another. Plantation rubbers have been very indifferently graded. There are too many grades. You buy rubber from ten estates, and you will probably get ten different prepared lots, giving different results. I think these are the two chief reasons which account for the complete failure of rubber growers to compete with wild Para rubber.

Take a manufacturer dealing in a year with two, three, or four thousand tons of rubber. He has no use for little lots of rubber, all differing in quality in the methods of their preparation, which will give different results when manufactured into finished goods. He cannot run the risk of using them in his finest manufactures. Many of these rubbers are prepared by managers of estates who do not claim to be scientific men on this question, and who do not work to any particular rule. The first thing to deal with is the practical question of the preparation of rubber, which is at a discount on the market to-day because of defective methods employed in the industry. The elimination of wild Para seems to me to be a prize worth working for and winning. It is a question of organisation."

Mr. Dundas-Monat says:—"We have been told price has fallen away to about 2s. per lb., because (1) the quality is so poor that manufacturers cannot and will not use it; (2) the method of preparation on the estates is all wrong; and (3) if the manufacturer were to use it he would require to scrap his machinery and put down special plant to treat it. I have taken the trouble to make inquiry and have gone into the whole subject with a gentleman who represents one of, if not the biggest manufacturers in America. His firm in normal times uses about 15,000 tons of all kinds of rubber annually, of which 8,000 to 10,000 tons is plantation. They find, up to the present time, that there are but two uses to which plantation rubber cannot be put so advantageously as fine hard Para, e. g., the making of thread and the finest quality of cement or solution—for any other purpose it does equally well, and later I hope to show is preferred. Every motor tyre they manufacture—and I hesitate even to estimate the number of these annually put on the market—is entirely made of plantation rubber, except for the solution which cements the treads to the canvas carcass. They prefer crepe rubber and never buy smoked sheet, and they advise producers to continue to manufacture crepe. I have always understood we could look upon plantation rubber as being about 98 per cent. pure; my friend tells me that if they find it loses 1 per cent. they think something is wrong. He tells me that if plantation were selling at 60 cents (American) and fine hard Para at 45 cents it would pay them better to use plantation. So much for the alleged inferiority of plantation Para."

Mr. Dundas-Monat traces the trouble to American failures and the Akron strikes. Manufacturers have been astonished at the price to which rubber has fallen, and are now anxious because they expect a sharp reaction. His friend informs him that buying with a view to the spring demand is about to commence, and there will be larger consumption with better prices. "Further, my informant positively states that manufacturers in general will find it possible at anything under 3s. per lb. to put more rubber in their manufactured articles and will unquestionably do so, with the result that consumption will thereby be enormously increased, irrespective of any new uses which may be discovered. I asked him if he could estimate the amount of fine hard Para annually required for uses which plantation could not fill, and he replied that his firm had gone into the question and the figure was not over 5,000 tons. He estimated also that the world's demand for 1914 will be 125,000 tons, with 175,000 in 1915, and provided no wild fluctuations occur, and barring wars and strikes, a good deal more later. Finally his answer to the question, 'What is wrong with plantation rubber?' was, 'Why, nothing.' As to the discrepancy in price between plantation and fine hard Para, he suggests that Mr. Aker's reports have probably done the plantation industry more harm than we suspect, but the worst on that account is over."—*The Rubber World*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Srivillipattur,

22nd November, 1913.

The Labour Commission.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

SIR,—I wish N.I.K. had allowed you to publish his name with his letter which appeared in your issue of the 15th November, so that we could judge as to his past experience and the right to occupy so much of your space as would be entailed by giving him a full answer. I conclude his experience is small; at any rate, it is obvious that the time at his disposal has not been sufficient to study the subject of "direct recruiting." Not knowing anything about his personality, I am entitled to ask him a few questions to ascertain if there is any value in his implied advocacy of direct recruiting or in his seeming desire to see it made a branch of the business to be undertaken by the proposed Labour Commission of the U.P.A.S.I. Before doing so, I express my amazement at the ignorance he displays of the working of the Ceylon Labour Commission. The whole system was clearly explained by Mr. Farquharson at the General Meeting of the U.P.A.S.I. in 1909. Perhaps the experience of N.I.K. does not cover so remote a date, but even then the neglect to look up a few back numbers is inexcusable in one who has any interest at all in the Labour problem. We have indeed the experience of the Ceylon Labour Commission as a guide, and can therefore avoid its mistakes. The enthusiasm of the first Ceylon Labour Commissioner for "direct recruiting" was soon quenched by his employers in Ceylon who forbade its continuance for reasons that were absolutely sound. It was then relegated to the position of an "experiment" which had been abandoned. Now for my questions;—Has N.I.K. ever worked coolies supplied by some one else not belonging to the Estate? By a man in the position of a recruiter or say, such an one as would be the Agent of a Labour Commission? The most successful and the largest "direct" recruiting Agency extant in South India is that run by the Government of the Straits and the F. M. S. Is N. I. K. aware that the immigration tax paid by the Estate to cover the cost is 4 dollars for each coolie imported, and that for every coolie whose name appears on the Estate Check roll an annual tax of 8 dollars per head is levied irrespective of other recruiting expenses? Does he know that most of these coolies are unattached men and that the proportion of females to males is about 15%? Does he think similar gangs of coolies would remain long on his Estate, or become attached to it in any way? Does he know that in spite of the "direct" recruiting so successfully carried out by so powerful an organization, planters from Malaya find it necessary to come over themselves to India and bring crowds of Malisries and Kanganies with them to help in recruiting coolies? The cost of all this is not included in the immigration tax. Does he know that the British Malay Rubber Company started the year 1912 with 237 coolies, that the cost of recruiting 1,336 coolies from India during the year was Rs.49,755 and that at the end of the year there was a balance of 613 coolies on the Estate? Some of these doubtless being coolies with which the year started, divide the total cost by the number of newly recruited coolies remaining, and the cost of recruiting in this instance comes to something like Rs.90 per head. Does he know that there are Estates in Malaya which

were even in a worse Labour position? There were Estates much better off of course, but what would N. I. K. say if his Estate was by chance in the other category? To turn to another aspect, has N. I. K. ever recruited coolies and handed them over to the Manager of another Estate to work? I have personal experience of this also, and it makes me hot and cold all over when I think of it.

Mr. Editor, I have a confession to make. I am still doing it to a small extent. I know that the principle involved is absolutely wrong, and unsound, but where I can find what I consider optimum conditions, i.e., in the intention of the recruiter, the class of coolies, and most important of all, my absolute confidence in the ability and resource of the Manager of the Estate concerned, I am still trying it in order to see if there is a possibility even by a fluke, of making one success. Although everyone of us is doing his best, I find nothing to say in its favour. Why do I go on then? It is because I do not accept the position that because others have failed, therefore it is no use trying, and because I feel there are deeper drugs below what I have already swallowed, which I must drain before I finally give in.

Need I refer to the withdrawal of a promising South Indian Labour Department which had its headquarters at Coimbatore not so very long ago and its cause? I think not. I would not go into the other matters raised by N.I.K. were it not that his ignorance on one point makes me think his speculations on the others may be based on the same abysmal foundation. A large Indian Staff with insufficient supervision will not accomplish anything, while a small Native Staff well supervised is capable of surprisingly good work. It is quite possible to get reliable information (all other sorts are of course useless and even dangerous) by means of Indian subordinates with no particular facilities to help them, no training to start with (though they are quite susceptible to training) and with not overmuch intelligence, but not without check, the difference between success and failure lies in the check, by means of competent supervision. A knowledge that any information may be checked at any moment and sometimes with great rapidity helps, I may almost say ensures, reliability. How does the following report (a genuine one) strike N.I.K.? It happens to be one that requires no check, the man reporting knowing his business, having been in my service some years:--

"As per your order of 7-11-13 I send herewith an encumbrance certificate got from the Minkapuram Sub-Registrar's office, it does not appear that this Kangany has encumbered his properties. The documents executed in his favour are mentioned in the certificate except, a pro-note for Rs.200. The certificate for this pro-note can be had from the office only by the parties concerned. I shall report further about this later on. A Government embossed paper was purchased by this Kangany from the Stamp Vendor but the purpose for which it was purchased is not known."

Would this help N. I. K.? I doubt it. It would probably mislead him and many another, in spite of its being true and reliable in every way. The Kangany would probably be regarded as an honest man, with his transactions duly registered. It requires interpretation before those who have insufficient knowledge of such things would understand it.

The purpose for which that stamped paper was purchased is not known. No, but it can be guessed, and it reveals a surprising depth of rascality on the man's part. His dishonesty of purpose and intention shines out as clear as day light, for it was purchased on the chance of it proving useful at some future date. It will be garbled about until it has acquired that venerable

able appearance, that well-known mixture of smoky cooly line and trouser pocket which combine to impart the odour of sanctity so necessary to the would-be forger, and will some day be produced to prove the genuineness of an ancient transaction prior to the Estate's claim, not necessarily indeed by its present holder, but by some future possessor who has paid for it far more than its face value. The ink used will be of a pale brown colour, none of it will be blotted, for it would be difficult to make alterations, even out of the same bottle of ink, which would look as if made at the same time, if blotting paper spoilt the tone of any portion. Everything will be provided for, except perhaps the time of its purchase may be overlooked, and the transaction may bear a date prior to the day when it left the Stamp Vendor—and then.....oh then! ... May I be there to see!

A rascal with such intentions may be dealt with in various ways, the simplest, and cheapest possibly is to buy the paper from him and tear it up. Knowing that his game is found out he may even become a reformed character but in any case he will have to be carefully watched.

N. I. K. doubts the efficacy of the distribution of pamphlets unless the distributor is prepared to make advances on the spot and takes the recruits away with him. Does one buy a cake of soap when one first sees the advertisement extolling its virtue? or does one wait until one wants soap, and then buys what has been so often recommended? It annoys me to have to write down so elementary a fact, that advertisement is a mere sowing of the seed, only a proportion of which falls on likely ground, where it takes time to germinate, and I may add sometimes a long time before the conditions turn favourable. The investigation of new recruiting areas has never been sufficiently nor systematically tried by South Indian Planters. We have done nothing like the same work in this direction as our competitors from overseas. I cannot say what it may prove to be worth. It is just possible, however, that it may be worth the difference between being able to make a profit on an Estate or abandoning it altogether.

I confess I do not understand the last para. of N. I. K.'s letter.

Mr. Editor, I only take up so much of your space because there may be hundreds of men for all I know who think with N. I. K. that "direct" recruiting of coolies is among our hopes for the future. I have not given the reasons or even any of them to prove that direct recruiting is based on unsound principles that must necessarily fail, as my letter is already so long. What is come by as the result of hard personal work is what is prized most by us all, what is easy come by is not considered so valuable.

The trite proverb I find applies to coolies as well as to other things.

Yours faithfully,
AYLMER MARTIN.

Coimbatore, 25th November, 1913.

Nitrate of Lime.

The Editor,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the correspondence in your columns some time back in reference to the risk of storing this valuable fertiliser in a damp

climate owing to its hygroscopic properties, we have the pleasure to inform our friends that we are now prepared to supply this fertiliser in 50-lb. airtight tins, in which the Nitrate may be stored for any length of time in any climate without the slightest risk of the contents being in any way affected (vide our advertisement in this issue).

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

For T. Stanes & Co., Limited,

F. J. STANES,

Nilgiris, 22nd November, 1913.

Antestia Cruviata.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—On the principle of "Prevention is better than Cure" I have had collected and killed since the middle of August last several thousands of this bug, and have been trying to find if any bunches of berries show signs of drying but have so far been unsuccessful. Both my Budaga and Tajull Maistries tell me they have always known this bug in coffee but did not know it did any harm. Very small bug are still being found in numbers which proves that breeding is not confined here to August and September. The better the field the more numerous the bug. I was told that on one estate in this district the crop was reduced by this antestia from, I think, 10 tons to 2½ tons, but am glad to say that other planters with whom I have corresponded do not seem to have noticed that their blossoms have not set or that they have suffered subsequently from this cause. Planters who doubt if they have many antestia would probably find out by offering 8 annas a 100 for them.

Coffee planters should be grateful to Hon. Secretaries of Planters' Associations if they would get statistics of what is being done in their districts to keep down this pest and publish the results in this paper.

Yours faithfully,

O. W. MARDEN,

Curzon Estate,

Kotagiri P. O., Nilgiris.

20th November, 1913.

Tea.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter by "One Interested" in the *Planters' Chronicle* of 15th instant re Loss in Weight on shipments of Tea to the

London Market, has your correspondent taken into account the Broker's Draft of 1 lb. per chest? If not, this clears the mystery.

As far as my experience goes, I always think I have done well if my loss does not exceed 1'80 lbs.%. Should the loss be more than 2%, it shows bad weighing in the Factory, unless of course, cases have been damaged en route.

"One Interested" is also rather liberal with his over allowance per chest, 2 oz being ample.

I think I am right in saying that Brokers show no partiality between half and full chests, and that the full lb. is taken from both alike. A very useful sized sample it is too!

Yours faithfully,
R. N. C. GROVE.

Public Department

No. 1417.

Tropical Diseases.

From

The Hon'ble Mr. W. O. Horne, C.S.I., I.C.S.,
Ag. Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

The Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Fort St. George, the 17th November, 1913.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 9th September, 1913, I am directed to state that as this Government have under contemplation a scheme for establishing a Pathological Institute at Madras, in which extensive facilities will be afforded for the teaching of tropical medicine locally and for the conduct of research work connected with tropical diseases, they do not propose to contribute to the endowment fund of the London School of Tropical Medicine or to address the Government of India in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

For Chief Secretary.

A SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS FOR PRIVATE OWNERS BY A PLANTER.

The plan of accounts here set forth will, I believe, be found useful and satisfactory to the average planter, the man who has an estate say from 100 to 300 acres.

A system of Book-keeping requires a foundation upon which the figures of the future may rest so evenly that when the time arrives to balance them, *viz.*, to agree the Dr. and Cr. sides—no difficulty will be experienced. Therefore it is necessary first of all to make out a statement of liabilities and assets. It is proposed to take as an example the affairs of "A" who owns an estate of 200 acres of Coffee and his financial year commences on 1st April, 1913. He adopts a system which will provide him with a Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet at 31st March, 1914. The result of the statement of liabilities and assets is as follows:—

BALANCE SHEET, 1ST APRIL 1913.

<i>Liabilities (or credits)</i>		<i>Assets (or debits)</i>	
Sundry Creditors	Rs. 215 0 0	Block Account	Rs. 50,000 0 0
Excess of Assets over liabilities which represents the Capital A has in the estate	Rs. 60,660 0 0	Labour advances outstanding	" 500 0 0
		Cash in hand	" 125 0 0
		" at Bankers	" 10,250 0 0
	Rs. 60,875 0 0		Rs. 60,875 0 0

This "opening Balance Sheet" is the basis upon which the accounts are built. The books to be used are:—

- (1) Cash Book,
- (2) Journal,
- (3) Ledger.

The opening entries are made as follows:—

<i>Assets.</i>		
Cash in hand	Rs. 125 0 0	In Dr. Cash Column of Cash Book.
" at Bank	" 10,250 0 0	In Dr. Bank Column of Cash book.
Labour advances outstanding	" 500 0 0	On Dr. side of account opened in the Ledger.
Block Account	" 50,000 0 0	On Dr. side of account opened in the Ledger.
<i>Liabilities.</i>		
Sundry Creditors	Rs. 215 0 0	On Cr. side of an account opened in Ledger.
A's Capital	" 60,660 0 0	On Cr. side of an account in Ledger

After posting these entries the totals on the debit and credit sides of the Ledger and Cash book (the cash book is treated as a Ledger account) will be equal.

It is presumed that the transactions of A for the 12 months April 1st, 1913, to 31st March, 1914, were as follows:—They are put in a summarised form but in practice these entries must be made as the transactions occur.

1. Drew from the Bank for Office cash Rs. 15,000 0 0
2. Paid from Office cash on the following Accounts:—
 - (a) Superintendence ... Rs. 2,400 0 0
 - (b) Cultivation ... " 6,240 0 0
 - (c) Incidental Taxes etc. ... " 1,075 0 0
 - (d) Crop charges ... " 2,000 0 0
 - (e) New Buildings ... " 3,000 0 0
3. Paid sundry creditors balance due at 1st April by cheque ... Rs. 215 0 0
4. Advance for labour from office cash ... " 300 0 0
5. Bought from X Company on credit tools, etc. ... " 125 0 0
6. Sold for cash (placed in Bank) a part of the coffee crop ... " 20,000 0 0
7. Sold on credit balance of crop ... " 7,650 0 0
8. Recovered on account of labour advances (placed in office cash), ... " 350 0 0

These transactions are passed through the books of account, the accounts balanced and Balance Sheet prepared.

Journal.

1914 March 31st,		L.F.	Dr.	Cr.
	Sundry Debtors— Dr ...	10	7,650	
	To Sales Account for crop sold on credit ...	5		7,650 0 0
"	Cultivation charges— Dr ...	7	125 0 0	
	To sundry creditors for sundry tools purchased but not paid for at date ...	4		125 0 0
	<i>Closing Entries.</i>			
"	Profit and Loss Account— Dr...	11	11,840 0 0	
	To Superintendence ...	6		2,400 0 0
	" Cultivation ...	7		6,240 0 0
	" Incidental, taxes, &c. ...	8		1,075 0 0
	" Crop charges ...	9		2,000 0 0
"	Sales Account— Dr ...	5	27,650 0 0	
	To Profit and Loss Account ...	11		27,650 0 0
"	Profit and Loss Account— Dr...	11	5,810 0 0	
	To Capital account Profit transferred ...	10		5,810 0 0

Dr.		Cash Account.					Cash.				
		L.F.	Cash	Bank	1914		L.F.	Cash	Bank		
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
1913											
April 11	To Cash in hand and at Bank	...	125 0 0	10,250 0 0	Mar. 31	By Cash contra	15,000 0 0		
19 4					Do	By Superintendence	...	240 0 0			
					Do	By Cultivation	...	6,240 0 0			
					Do	By Incidental Taxes etc.	...	1,075 0 0			
Mar. 31	To Bank Contra	...	15,000 0 0		Do	By Crop charges	...	2,000 0 0			
Do	To Sales account crop sold	5	...	20,000 0 0	Do	By Block Account (New building)	...	3,000 0 0			
Do	To Labour advances recovered	3	350 0 0		Do	By Sundry creditors	215 0 0		
					Do	By Labour advances		
								15,015 0 0	15,215 0 0		
								480 0 0	15,695 0 0		
	Total Rs...	...	15,475 0 0	30,250 0 0							
April 1	To balance b/d	...	480 0 0	15,135 0 0		Total Rs...	...	15,475 0 0	30,250 0 0		

Ledger.				
A—CAPITAL ACCOUNT.				
Dr.		Pa. A. P.		Cr.
1914 March 31st.	To Balance c/d	76,470 0 0	1913 April 1st.	By amount invested in Estate at this date
			1914 March 31st.	Profit for year
		76,470 0 0	April 1st.	Balance b/d
				15,810 0 0
				76,470 0 0
				76,470 0 0
BLOCK ACCOUNT.				
Dr.				Cr.
1918 April 1st.	To value of Estate at date ..	50,000 0 0	1914 March 31st.	By Balance c/d
1914 March 31st.	" Cash (New Buildings)	C. B. 8,000 0 0		
		1 53,000 0 0		
April 1st.	" Balance b/d	53,000 0 0		53,000 0 0
				53,000 0 0

To be continued.